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**DEC 18 2001**

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Dr. NATHAN T MELAMED  
6636 DALZELL PLACE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217

December 9, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission members,

When WQEX (Channel 16) first went on the air, I became an immediate subscriber. I contributed regularly and enjoyed it immensely. Although I continued to watch the other public station, it became my "alternative" station. The degradation of WQEX to present the identical programming as WQED has been a serious loss to me; the possibility of it being converted to a commercial station is a matter of deep concern.

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. Please keep Channel 16 a public broadcasting station, and if WQED does not wish to continue to maintain it, allow competing applications in order to insure that the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Melamed", written in a cursive style.

Nathan T Melamed

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Stefano Monti  
20 Fainwood Circle #2  
Cambridge, MA - 02139  
phone: (617) 441-0478

December 8, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a past long-time viewer of WQEX (Channel 16), Pittsburgh, PA, I am writing to urge you to reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX to ShootingStar, Inc.

I urge you to do so because WQEX, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, and I do not see why the people of Pittsburgh should be made to pay for WQED's mismanagement. WQED management is primarily responsible for the current debt miring the station, and should not be allowed to bail out of it by simply getting rid of part of the invaluable assets it had been originally appointed to manage (mind you, to manage, *not* to dispose of).

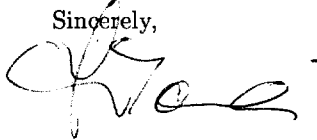
I urge you to do so because this community asset must be preserved for noncommercial educational broadcasting. I recently moved to Boston, and I can now enjoy two public stations and their offerings, which find no match in the commercial dial. Pittsburgh does not need yet another commercial station. Pittsburgh is still a thriving city and WQEX was a very popular alternative. When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

There are many other reasons to reject the commercialization of WQEX, but I would like here to point your attention to the fact that WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncom-

mercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel 16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

As the chairman and members of a commission whose mission is the protection of the public interest, I trust you will take the right decision, and will reject WQED's request for the commercialization of WQEX, a deal that would clearly undermine the interests of the people of Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,

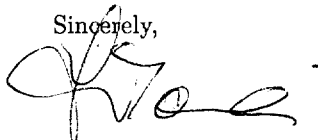
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Monti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stefano Monti

mercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel 16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

As the chairman and members of a commission whose mission is the protection of the public interest, I trust you will take the right decision, and will reject WQED's request for the commercialization of WQEX, a deal that would clearly undermine the interests of the people of Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Monti', with a small superscript '7' to the right.

Stefano Monti

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 18 2001**

477 Cherry Court  
Pittsburgh PA 15237  
December 11, 2001

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Re:MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission members:

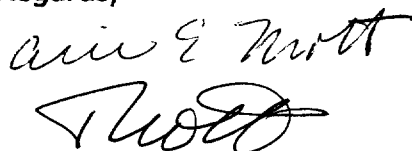
We are writing to ask that Channel 16 be kept as a public broadcasting station. Please do not approve the commercialization of WQEX's educational license.

Pittsburgh will benefit from a second, independent public station that can provide community productions and content, including foreign language and international programming. This second station can appeal to the population that is not served by WQED 13. The region has recovered from the collapse of the steel and related industries. Pittsburgh has a relatively high level of giving in support of community and cultural organisations. This includes WQED TV and FM and which will certainly include WQEX.

We have been supporters of public TV and radio since our move to the area twenty years ago and plan to continue our support. We enjoyed Channel 16 and now learn that it was then the third most watched second station in the US.

The board of WQED must not sell Channel 16 to reduce its debts and balance its budget. Other means, such as the sale of assets like Pittsburgh Magazine, are available.

Regards,



Alice E. Mott  
Thomas H. Mott



# UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

**RECEIVED**

*Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic*

3811 O'Hara Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2593

**DEC 18 2001**

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

February 12, 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

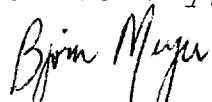
Two years ago I moved to Pittsburgh from Miami. Beyond its superior weather, one of the things I have missed most about Miami is the quality public television programming I viewed on WPBT. As a person who has watched public television closely both in Miami and in my native Germany, I can tell you that the offerings on WQED are abysmal.

With the exception of "The NewsHour," there is rarely anything of importance that airs on WQED in the evening. Just as Raymond Williams once surveyed the offerings on American public television and asked, "Where are the documentaries?" so too I find myself wondering, "Where are the shows that seek to inform and educate us? Where are the programs that feature working people and that talk about issues that impact people's lives?" I frequently joke with my friends that the only working people I see on WQED are the maids on the British dramas and the people on "Antiques Roadshow" who bring their relics in to AR's surveyors. I know from my experience in Miami that public television does not need to be this bad.

I raise these criticisms not simply to bash WQED but rather to make the larger point that WQED is not responsive to the public here in Pittsburgh.

To think that such an unresponsive entity could be allowed to make an enormous profit by selling WQEX is simply shocking. What will they do with this money? Will they give us twice as many doo-wop concerts or twice as many antiques roadshows? Because WQED has not indicated how the infusion of money that will come from the sale of WQEX will allow them to attack their most serious problem--their depressingly poor and irrelevant programming--I urge you to reject this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bjorn Meyer".

Bjorn Meyer, Ph.D.

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic  
3811 O'Hara Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 18 2001**

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

504 Glen Arden Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
412-268-2764 (Office)  
412-681-0648 (FAX)  
nagle@andrew.cmu.edu  
9 February 2001

Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting  
1020 Welfer St, 2nd Fl.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Dear CIPB:

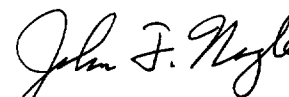
It is very disturbing to me that WQED is still trying to sell channel 16 - WQEX. This time looks even worse, since they are trying to sell it outright as a commercial channel.

The management and board of WQED do not represent the majority of people in Pittsburgh. This closed clique has mismanaged WQED badly. Since there appears to be no mechanism for dislodging them, the only alternative is to recommit WQEX to a different public group, not to sell it to a commercial operator. The WQED management does not deserve to have its debt erased in this way.

I once was a strong supporter of WQED. I no longer support it because the programming is so poor. The commercials on commercial TV are even preferable to the stuff they show on WQED.

Please forward this letter to the FCC and to anyone else to whom it might be appropriate.

Sincerely,  
John F. Nagle  
Professor of Physics  
and Biological Sciences  
Carnegie Mellon University  
<http://bilayer.phys.cmu.edu>





**RECEIVED**

**DEC 18 2001**

302 Thorn St.  
Sewickley, PA 15143  
January 26, 2001

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Secretary, FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am contacting you to urge the FCC to deny WQED Pittsburgh's latest petition to sell its noncommercial sister station WQEX to ShootingStar, Inc. I have many reasons for my opposition.

First, WQEX (channel 16) is a public asset reserved for the people of Pittsburgh to provide educational broadcasting. This it did successfully, taking up only a fraction of the WQED budget and showing a profit. It provided much of the community-oriented programming most enjoyed as channel 13 (WQED) drifted to more and more pledge programming and cooking shows, all endlessly rerun.

Second, management of QED has shown bad faith and secretive dealings in its attempts to cash in on the sale of QEX. While crying financial disaster, QED management seems to have the money to waste on simulcasting, apparently in order to skirt the loss of the QEX license if they allowed the signal to go completely dark. Much of QED's money problems were due to past bad management, while they continue to pay at least ten QED executives compensation packages of over \$160,000 per annum. Further, QED has other assets like Pittsburgh magazine worth millions more than its stated debt.

Presently Pittsburgh Educational Television, a community initiative, is developing a business plan to restore public broadcasting to channel 16. Please reject WQED's bid to commercialize the station and urge management to return the station to the people of this community.

Sincerely,



Felicity Nash

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**DEC 18 2001**

December 9, 2001

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Eugene H. Ornato  
2628 Summit Street  
Bethel Park PA 15102-2026

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington DC 20554

Re: Docket No: 01-276

Dear Magalie Roman Salas:

I am writing to you concerning the sale of the public television station WQEX 16.

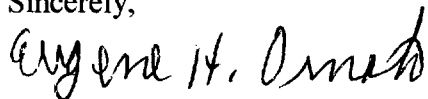
As I understand the license of Channel 16, it is held by WQED/WQEX in trust for the public. It was licensed as an educational broadcasting station to serve the general public, which is the true owner of the station. I do not want a public entity sold to a private corporation that will not provide programming of an educational/informative nature.

A few short years ago I met Ken Tiven, who was in charge of programming at WQEX, and he was excited about the programs being broadcasted. Indeed, there were many good programs of limited interest airing at that time. Since that time we have had simulcasts of WQED.

I should like to have WQEX return to the air as a separate public station airing programs not available on commercial television, nor on regular PBS broadcasts. Pittsburgh Educational Television, a community initiative, will help restore public broadcasting on WQEX.

One final point: the current management of WQED mismanaged funding and should be held accountable for that mismanagement, but not at the expense of killing WQEX and not at the expense of the public who rightfully own WQEX.

Sincerely,



Eugene H. Ornato

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DEC 18 2001

Thomas Pandaleon and Faith Schantz

6824 Thomas Boulevard

Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Phone: (412) 441-2599 Fax: (412) 441-7753

FCC MAIL ROOM

December 11, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Channel 16 (WQEX) Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

We are writing to register our strong opposition to the sale of a vital public asset here in Pittsburgh. Please do not dereserve the license of Channel 16 (WQEX). To do so would be to close one more longstanding and unique source of non-mainstream information and entertainment here in this city. We do not need another commercial station here in Pittsburgh, especially if it must come at the expense of this public channel.

Channel 16 was, at its best, an *alternative* to the commercial stations here in Pittsburgh. It was also an *alternative* to Channel 13, WQED's main channel. In that role, it is most vital. Public television must take risks in presenting information, points of view, entertainments that are not immediately recognizable, that are disconcerting, controversial, disorienting and, at times, upsetting. We, each of us, have been watching public television for over 30 years, since we were children growing up in suburban New York and Philadelphia, respectively. Some of the shows and documentaries that we saw then, which were only available on public television, have left their mark on us as individuals. At the time, even *Masterpiece Theater* felt like it was cutting edge in its daring to screen the classics during the age of rock and roll. Today, we fear, there is too much unwillingness to take chances, to give voice to those who dwell, think and create outside the mainstream. The mainstream is well-represented on the airwaves.

WQED is praised for its "local programming," and, we suppose, something is better than nothing. But cooking shows, "oldies" music marathons and nostalgic paeans to ice cream shoppes and old drive-in movie theaters are riskless and ultimately trivial in the scheme of things. They have their place, but they have much too big a place on today's WQED. And they are reshowed and reshowed *ad infinitum* here in Pittsburgh, along with nauseating self-help programs that are just this side of paid infomercials. The difference between Joseph Campbell and Barbara Sher/Suze Orman is monumental, culturally, and WQED is too often blind to those distinctions. Channel 16, by contrast, aired both "The Singing Detective" and "Pennies From Heaven," both critically-acclaimed dramas not shown on other stations. Channel 16, whether it be broadcasting as WQEX or some new *publicly-oriented* station, would provide a culturally vibrant alternative to what is already available, elsewhere, in spades.

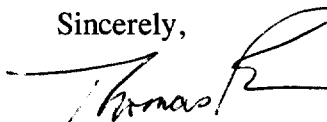
Regardless of its short-term permutations, Channel 16 is an asset given to the public television station of this community for the benefit of *the public*. Unless it is absolutely necessary to the survival of WQED, **which it is not**, this public asset should not be sold to solve short-term problems that resulted from mismanagement bordering on criminality on the part of past executives. That would be a betrayal of the public's trust, selling Pittsburgh's asset in order to clean up the fiscal mess created by a few well-heeled miscreants. It would be a betrayal of those individuals who have donated money to WQED with the understanding that it holds public assets. We ourselves have not donated in years due to the mismanagement of those in charge prior to Mr. Miles, and, lately, due to the wrong-headed and shortsighted attempts to liquidate this asset. We would donate again if the station dropped this foolishness. Our dollars and those of others would begin to help to retire the debt, if necessary, albeit over a longer period.

Finally, the attacks on those seeking to preserve Channel 16 as a publicly-oriented alternative station strike us as **outrageous**. Recently, Thomas McGough, the chairman of WQED's Board of Directors, published an op-ed piece in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* criticizing the viability of the plans presented by Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), which is allied with other publicly-minded organizations like Citizens For Independent Public Broadcasting. While the plan presented by PET may not be perfect enough for Mr. McGough yet, the irony of WQED, having screwed up so royally its own finances, pointing the finger of *potential* ineptitude at PET, is breathtaking. Furthermore, his tired old tactic of smearing concerned American citizens with assertions that they are "stuck in the 1960's," "ideologically isolated," and that among other programs they may offer, heaven forbid(!), "politically loaded material" would be laughable in its transparency, if it weren't so gratuitous, mendacious and manipulative. We're talking about finding a way to *preserve* a public asset. What could be more "conservative" than that? We don't want to sell the farm if it can still produce the crops. What's so radical in that?

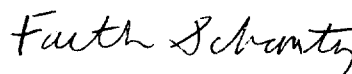
WQED is on the road to fiscal health and responsibility. The crisis is past. It may take a few years more for WQED to right itself completely, but it will. Half of its putative \$9 million in debt is owed to its own capital fund. Why should it not work itself back to financial health like any other entity or individual who has gotten itself into trouble? Why take this action, which divests it of an asset with huge cultural and financial potential over the long term?

Please do not acquiesce in an unnecessary and unwarranted liquidation of Channel 16 as a public asset of the Pittsburgh community.

Sincerely,



Thomas Pandaleon



Faith Schantz

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Phylis Pietrusza

Post Office Box 327  
Manor PA 15665  
Email: [phylis@telerama.com](mailto:phylis@telerama.com)  
Tele: (724) 863-5075  
Fax On Demand

November 10, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

It is in the public interest that Channel 16 remains a public television station. No station is carrying the kinds of programs that Channel 16 had. I believe that Channel 16 will be a viable station and draw many contributors from the public if it serves mature audiences. No where on any of the present channels are these needs being met. I do not have cable TV. I know many senior citizens that are unable to afford cable TV. The average cost for cable is \$39.99 a month. We are talking about people who have to struggle to buy groceries and medicines and have little for any luxuries. Cable TV is completely out of their reach.

However, once a television set is purchased, many can receive the station with rabbit ears or a rooftop antenna, which is cheap and can be installed on a one-time basis. When Channel 16 went off the air many told me they had lost their favorite channel. They wanted re-broadcasts of the National Geographic shows. They had nothing to watch when most stations they could receive were running soap operas.

Channel 16 was so successfully meeting the needs of the seniors that they were supporting the public television in Pittsburgh. It was not having Channel 16 that gave the station the money problems; it was irresponsible spending and what I think were illegal perks for the upper echelon. No one addressed this from the television station ever as far as I know. They just said they could not afford Channel 16!

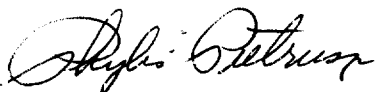
I know many people my age who are unable to communicate effectively because they do not have the resources. They used channel 16 and would really like to see it restored. PLEASE, this was/is a PUBLIC television station. Help us to restore it and give it back to the people.

I will again begin my support of Public Television when it becomes responsive to THE people. The oligarchy that took over has ignored as much as possible anyone who wished to express a different opinion.

I went to the "meeting" they held at Seton Hill College in Greensburg a couple of years ago and I was the only person there to speak for the public. I was told that was not the purpose of the meeting, but I did speak out against what had been done to eliminate Channel 16. I'll bet this was not reported anywhere that there was at least ONE person who spoke against the self-aggrandizing picture that was being painted.

In fact, one person there said he was on the FCC Board and inferred that my opinion was worthless. He said the FCC had given the right to sell the station. I am so glad to see that he was ~~not~~ wrong, but regret this limbo of Channel 16 all these years. PLEASE help give this back to the people.

Sincerely,



Phylis Pietrusza  
Just an American Citizen

.....

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Dec 5 2001

DEC 18 2001

~~Letter~~ FCC MAIL ROOM,

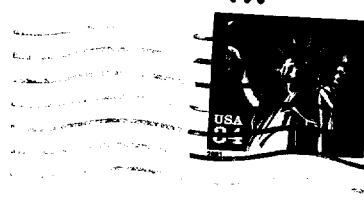
Please say "no" to  
WQED petition to sell  
WQEX for commercial use.

We need more  
educational and  
community responsive  
programs not less.

Please give Pittsburgh  
Educational Television  
a chance to serve the  
people of this community.

Kathryn Porto and  
many many of my  
senior friends

K. Porto  
133 Catskill Ave  
Pgh Pa 15227



C / P5  
1910 Cochran Rd  
Mann Oak Two Suite 441  
Pgh Pa 15220

15220+1203



Antje Price  
819 College Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
**RECEIVED**

November 25, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12th Street NW  
Washington DC 20554

**DEC 18 2001**

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

I want to go on record again as opposing WQED Pittsburgh's petition for FCC approval of commercialization and sale of its public TV station WQEX(Channel 16) to Shooting Star, Inc.

Until it was switched to simulcasting WQED in 1997, I was a regular viewer of WQEX, in fact I watched and enjoyed it more than WQED. Since then I have sorely missed its community-oriented alternative prime time programming and the diversity offered by two local public television outlets.

At present there are active community initiatives to restore this kind of service, with emphasis on the considerable assets available in the region. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television(PET) has a practicable business plan to restore public broadcasting on Chanel 16.I strongly support this and hope your considered action will make it possible.

Furthermore, I was not only a viewer of WQEX but also a "member" who contributed regularly in response to appeals to "keep the station on the air", unfortunately to no avail. I understand that thanks to wide community support, WQEX was more than self-supporting and that it would be now, especially with the increased involvement of local and regional educational and cultural institutions. This is not an asset belonging to the WQED corporation to be disposed of at will, without consent or notification of the shareholding community. All the decisions about the fate of WQEX were made in corporate board meetings closed to the membership, or as expressed by George Miles, the corporate CEO: "We know what's right for WQED and this community, and we're not going to let a few detractors get in the way of what's right". I thoroughly disagree with this arrogant premise and am proud to stand up as one of the many detractors.

In view of all this I ask the Commissioners to deny commercialization of station WQEX and to block the proposed sale, and while maintaining its license as a public non-commercial entity, not renewing ~~this~~ for WQED but reserving it for the alternative community enterprise PET available in the Pittsburgh area.

*Magalie Roman Salas*

*Antje Price*



Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

Dear Commissioner,

FCC MAIL ROOM

With regard to MM Docket No. 01-276, we oppose the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. The sale of this license would create an irreplaceable loss for the future of Pittsburgh. The potential of WQEX has never been fully developed, but this process should be encouraged, not ended. Please do not allow the commercialization to proceed.

Jonathan and Mary Robison  
215 N. Dithridge Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1418



# Just Harvest

A CENTER FOR ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Changing public policy  
on hunger since 1987

120 East 9th Avenue  
Homestead PA 15120  
Phone: (412) 464-0739  
Fax: (412) 464-0758

Feb. 7, 2001

Commissioner Powell  
FCC  
445 12 St. NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Powell,

We are worried about WQED's recent proposal to sell WQEX. **And we urge you to reject this request.**

WQEX used to play an important role in our community, until the stations started simulcasting. In addition to interesting national programs, QEX had many programs about local issues, which were educational for the whole community.

We would like to see WQEX return to the role of serving noncommercial needs of the local community.

If ShootingStar buys WQEX, however, this will never happen. Instead of keeping a station as a "voice for the voiceless," we'll be stuck with another cookie-cutter commercial station broadcasting the same old sensational programs instead of in-depth discussions of important issues.

Also, why should the community suffer for the mistakes of the QED board? If QED has a debt, they should sell off some of their assets, like Pgh Magazine.

It's also clear to us that if the board thought they'd have public support for this idea, they wouldn't have negotiated the deal behind closed doors. Why didn't they ask for public input during the process?

**So, please reject QED's request to sell QEX to ShootingStar. It's in the public's interest to insure that WQEX remains a public station with important educational programming.**

Sincerely,

Joni Rabinowitz, Co-Director

cc: Steve Lerman

**Just Harvest is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer**

Winner of the Congressional Hunger Center's 1997 Victory Against Hunger Award, World Hunger Year's 1993 Harry Chapin Food Self-Reliance Award, and the Pa. Public Health Association's 1993 Rodale Award for Health Promotion.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pa. Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pa., 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

970 Freedom Crider Rd.  
Freedom, Penna. 15042  
December 12, 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magali Roman Salas  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
MM Docket #01-276  
445 12th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is a strong protest against the proposed commercialization of the public television station, WQEX. Because of poor financial decisions on the part of WQED, they seem to find themselves in debt. Without considering other options, WQED has arbitrarily made the decision to deprive the viewing public of this unique station. Why should the public have to pay for WQED's self-inflicted debt? Their first obligation should be to the viewers, as these are public television stations.

We have been faithful supporters of WQEX over the years, as we were amused by British comedies and instructed in various arts and crafts, as well as other entertainment not found on WQED. WQEX was a very good alternative to other programming, and make no mistake about it, Pittsburgh does have room for (and an audience for) two public television stations. How else could WQEX be the third most watched second channel in the country, according to a recent article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette? We would tune in to WQEX more consistently than any other station, cable or otherwise. Of course, even that is hard to do, since WQED now broadcasts whatever it has on over WQEX's airwaves.

In addition, WQEX ran at a revenue surplus, unlike poorly-managed WQED. It seems that the contention is that Pittsburgh cannot financially support two public stations, either. Several weeks ago, this statistic was publicized: the average salary in the Pittsburgh area is \$77,000.00. How does this coincide with WQED's talk of "severe economic decline"?

Lastly, WQED's handling of this whole thing seems somewhat secretive. Not once, to our knowledge, have they used their public air space to invite comment from the public. How do their actions serve the community that supports them?

Thank you so much for taking time to read our letter. Your consideration on this matter is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Virginia Roemele*  
*Rand Roemele*  
Virginia Roemele  
Rand Roemele

Megalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED  
DEC 18 2001  
FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: WQED application to dereserve Channel 16, Pittsburgh  
MM Docket No 01-276

Dear Ms Salas and Commissioners

I am writing to request that you reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to dereserve channel 16, Pittsburgh.

Ever since I moved to Pittsburgh I have been impressed by the array of channels and voices here in this city. I thought it was too bad when WQED basically shut down channel 16—an outstanding educational and cultural vehicle for the city. I advocate this channel becoming a resource for training in communications and broadcasting and returning it to active use. This is a public resource and at this time especially the need for a public community voice is crucial.

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh. I feel strongly that WQEX needs to resume its not-for-profit status as a public station with a community initiative. It would be wonderful to be able to have an additional forum in these troubled times in which we need as much information, reflection and connection to issues and culture in as open and unbiased a way as possible.

Sincerely,



Rosaly DeMaio Roffman  
Associate professor  
English Dept.  
Indiana University of Penna.  
Indiana PA. 15701

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

RE: MM Docket No. 01-276

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dec 17, 2001  
Date

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554.

Dear Commissioner:

Please reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to commercialize and sell Channel \*16 (sister station WQEX) to ShootingStar, Inc.

My wife used to love watching *Keeping Up Appearances* and *Are You Being Served?* when they are carried by WQEX. Also, as a former newspaper staffer, I enjoy alternative public affairs programs. We cannot get this fare on WQED and so we would like public broadcasting restored on Channel 16 (WQEX). We do not need yet another commercial station.

If WQED no longer wants to provide programming on Channel \*16, please invite applications from other noncommercial educational organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Alvin Rosenwald  
Signature

ALVIN R ROSENWALD  
Print Name

525 Morewood Ave. Apt. C-7  
Street Address

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213  
City, State, Zip

December 7, 2001

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 18 2001**

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Dear Ms. Salas:

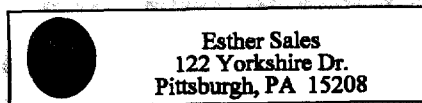
I am writing to express my strong concern and disapproval of the FCC petition to sell Pittsburgh station WQEX to Shooting Star, Inc. WQEX is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not a property to be sold for profit by WQED. There is a viable plan to preserve WQEX for community educational purposes, which I believe should be supported. To allow WQED to sell and profit from the loss of this community resource is irresponsible, encouraging their further profligate executive salaries and wasteful spending practices.

I therefore urge the FCC to reject the petition by WQED to commercialize and sell WQEX.

Sincerely,



Dr. Esther Sales



**RECEIVED**

**DEC 18 2001**

4705 Fifth Avenue  
Apt. 2J  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
(412) 683-2868

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

December 12, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554.

Re: WQED application to dereserve the noncommercial license of channel 16,  
Pittsburgh. MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Ms. Salas and Commissioners:

Please reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to dereserve WQEX Channel 16, Pittsburgh. WQEX is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED.

As a lifetime resident of Pittsburgh, I regularly watched many television programs, including locally-produced discussion shows, and films on WQEX that were not duplicated on any other station. Unfortunately WQEX is now broadcasting the same programs as WQED, a tragic waste of an important community asset. WQED programs consist largely of children's shows and the national feed. With its emphasis on community-oriented programming, WQEX was once the third most watched second station in the country. We need it now more than ever.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. The rebuilding our downtown cultural center has been featured in national publications. Three professional sports teams are supported. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do.


When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus. WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year, far in excess of counterparts in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, half of which it owes to its own capital fund. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If the FCC allows WQED to divest itself of WQED, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere?

Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall.

WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel \*16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

Sincerely,



Edward R. Scheid

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

December 6, 2001

Michael Schneider  
119 Gordon Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

FCC MAIL ROOM  
Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554.

Re: WQED application to dereserve the noncommercial license of channel 16,  
Pittsburgh. MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Ms. Salas and Commissioners:

Please reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to dereserve channel 16, Pittsburgh.

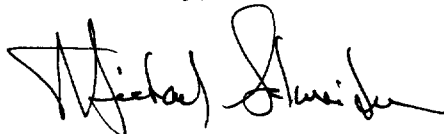
Along with my family, I am a long-time viewer of public television, and until four years ago, when WQED in effect shut down channel 16, it was my favorite channel. I know there are many other Pittsburgh viewers who feel the same way.

Since WQED chooses not to make use of the channel 16 airspace, it should be made available to other groups who can use it for the benefit of the community, consistent with the Public Broadcasting Act. One such group, Pittsburgh Educational Television, has announced a plan, modeled on second-service channels in other cities, that would return channel 16 to active use. Among other things, the PET plan proposes that channel 16 could be a resource for training in broadcast and communications programs at Pittsburgh universities.

Shamelessly, WQED wants to cash in this license, which is rightly a public resource. To further this end, they have presented arguments to the effect that Pittsburgh's economy is in decline and therefore can't support two public channels. These arguments don't deserve serious consideration. I'm not an economist (I'm a science writer and teacher at Carnegie Mellon University), but I'm confident that economic data for the last decade will show that these claims have no legitimate basis and are, in effect, a pretext by which WQED avoids mentioning the real source of its financial problems — its own mismanagement.

You will do a great disservice to the Pittsburgh community if you grant WQED's petition.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Schneider



**RECEIVED**

**DEC 18 2001**

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

30 Park Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
24 January 2001

Secretary, FCC  
445 12th St. NW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear FCC:

I am writing to Oppose WQED Pittsburgh's petition to commercialize and sell its sister station WQEX to ShootingStar, Inc.

WQEX (channel 16) is a public trust awarded to the People of Pittsburgh and is not a private asset to be sold for profit by WQED. The FCC has so ruled in the past, agreeing further that Pittsburgh still needs second public station.

This latest attempt to sell WQEX was made in secret and the board of WQED openly scoffs at criticism that they consistently flout their obligation to run a public station, supported by public funds, in an open manner. Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall.

Please reject the commercialization of WQEX and urge WQED to return the station to the community so its signal may no longer be wasted on simulcasting, as it has been for over three years.

Sincerely,



Daniel Schrage